

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

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INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-03

SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-03 /077 W

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R 240740Z FEB 75

FM USLO PEKING

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3264

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG EMAE CH

SUBJECT: PRC BUILDS JACK-UP OFFSHORE OIL RIG

1. THE FIRST 1975 ISSUE OF THE PRC PUBLICATION, SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENT (KEXUE SHIYAN), TO WHICH CONGEN HAS SUBSCRIPTION, HAS BECOME AVAILABLE IN PEKING. THE COVER STORY IS ON A JACK-UP OIL RIG CALLED POHAI NUMBER ONE, WHICH THE ARTICLE SAYS IS CHINA'S FIRST DOMESTICALLY PRODUCED JACK-UP RIP FOR OFFSHORE OIL EXPLORATION. THE ARTICLE SAYS THE RIG IS BEING USED IN THE POHAI GULF, WHERE IT HAS UNDERGONE TWO YEARS OF TRIAL OPERATION. IT RESTS ON FOUR STEEL LEGS, WHICH ARE SAID TO RZTDBCPXER 70 METERS INTO THE SEAJ

2. GIVEN THE TREMENDOUS INTEREST IN PRC OIL DEVELOPMENT, WE SUGGEST CONGEN CONSIDER PUBLISHING A SEPARATE TRANSLATION OF THIS ARTICLE, WHICH PROVIDES INFORMATION ON THE STRUCTURE AND CHARACTERISTICS OF POHAI NUMBER ONE  
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AND GIVES SOME INSIGHT INTO THE CHINESE APPROACH TO

OFFSHORE DRILLING. OUR GENERAL IMPRESSION IS THAT POHAI NUMBER ONE IS SIMILAR TO THE ORIGINAL BETHLEHEM DESIGN FOR OFFSHORE RIGS OR TO RIGS PRODUCED BY THE OFFSHORE COMPANY WHICH USE THE OLD DELONG JACKS. IT ALSO APPEARS THAT MANY TECHNIQUES USED BY THE CHINESE ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE USED IN THE U.S. FOR EXAMPLE, THE ARTICLE INDICATES THAT POHAI NUMBER ONE IS USED MAINLY FOR EXPLORATION AND THAT DEVELOPMENT WELLS WOULD NORMALLY BE DRILLED FROM FIXED PLATFORMS EQUIPPED FOR DIRECTIONAL DRILLING. IN CALM WATERS, HOWEVER, THE ARTICLE SUGGESTS THAT THE CHINESE WUOULD UTILIZE A PROSPECTING RIG (SUCH AS POHAI NUMBER ONE) TO DRILL THE WELL, AND THEN USE SMALL PRODUCTION PLATFORMS WHICH HAVE SEPARATION AND MEASUREMENT FACILITIES.

3. ON INTERESTING POINT APPEARS IN A SECTION OF THE ARTICLE DEALING WITH TESTING WELLS. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO DEAL WITH CRUDE OIL GUSHING FROM PROSPECTING WELLS. THE MORE COMMONLY USED METHOD, IT SAYS, IS TO BURN THE OIL ON THE PLATFORM, AND THIS IS THE PURPOSE OF THE BURNER ON POHAI NUMBER ONE; THE OTHER METHOD IS TO TRANSPORT THE OIL TO LAND. IT THE CHINESE UTILIZE THE FORMER METHOD OFTEN, AS APPEARS TO BE THE CASE, THIS WOULD INDICATE THAT THEY ARE EITHER DEALING WITH RELATIVELY MANAGEABLE, LOW-PRESSURE WELLS, OR, IN THE CASE OF HIGHER PRESSURES, ARE USING "UNSANITARY" OIL FIELD PRACTICE WHICH COULD RESULT IN DESTRUCTION OF THE WHOLE RIG IF A WELL GOT OUT OF CONTROL. IN THE U.S., WELLS WITH ANY APPRECIABLE AMOUNT OF PRESSURE ARE NOT TESTED IN THIS MANNER.  
BUSH

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